

Remarks

The amendment to claim 24 has been made to limit the groups R³, R⁴, R⁹ and R¹⁰ recited in this claim to those which are enumerated as preferred examples at page 50, lines 23-25 of the specification.

The amendment to page 28, line 19 has been made in accordance with the amendment to claim 24.

The amendment to page 150, line 12 (i.e., an amendment in which "colums" is changed to --column--) is only a correction of a misspelling.

Each of the amendments to page 306, line 12 and to page 306, line 17 (i.e., amendments in which "reservoir 29" is changed to --reservoir 126--) has been made to correct an erroneously described reference numeral of a reservoir. Support for these amendments is as follows. In the paragraphs (at page 305, line 12 to page 307, line 3 of the specification) containing the portions to be corrected by the amendments, step (5) is performed using a device as shown in Fig. 6 (see page 305, lines 13-14 of the specification). As apparent from Fig. 6, a condensate withdrawn from condenser 52 is transferred to reservoir 126, not to reservoir 29. From this, the amendments are apparent.

Each of the amendments to page 323, line 11 and to page 323, line 16 (i.e., amendments in which "reservoir 29" is changed to --reservoir 126--) has also been made to correct an erroneously described reference numeral of a reservoir. Support for these amendments is as follows. In the paragraphs (at page 322, line 11 to page 324, line 2 of the specification) containing the portions to be corrected by the amendments, step (5) is performed using a device as shown in Fig. 6 (see page 322, lines 12-13 of the specification). As mentioned above, Fig. 6 shows that a condensate withdrawn from condenser 52 is transferred to reservoir 126, not to reservoir 29. From this, the amendments are apparent.

The amendment to page 351, line 2 (i.e., an amendment in which "reservoir 22" is changed to --reservoir 29--) has been made to correct an erroneously described reference numeral of a reservoir. Support for this amendment is as follows. The portion to be corrected by the amendment has a description reading "The condensate (containing dibutyl carbonate) collected in reservoir 22 in step (2)". However, as seen from the description at page 348, line 12-13 of the specification, the condensate obtained in step (2) is collected in reservoir 29, not in reservoir 22. This supports the amendment.

The amendment to page 352, line 18 (i.e., an amendment

in which "a Pb content" is changed to --an Hf content--) has been made to correct an erroneously described atomic symbol. Support for this amendment is as follows. The portion to be corrected by the amendment has a description reading "the liquid collected in reservoir 47 had a Pb content of about 1 % by weight". This liquid is transferred from distillation column 39 (see page 352, lines 4-7 of the specification), to which a liquid mixture containing Hf is fed (see page 351, lines 1-13 of the specification). It is apparent from the context that the liquid mixture does not contain Pb. Therefore, the liquid mixture contains Hf but does not contain Pb and, hence, the liquid collected in reservoir 47 contains Hf but does not contain Pb. Thus, the above description "the liquid collected in reservoir 47 had a Pb content of about 1 % by weight" should be amended to "the liquid collected in reservoir 47 had an Hf content of about 1 % by weight".

The amendment to page 354, line 10 (i.e., an amendment in which "a Pb content" is changed to --an Hf content--) has also been made to correct an erroneously described atomic symbol. Support for this amendment is as follows. The portion to be corrected by the amendment has a description reading "the liquid collected in reservoir 58 had a Pb content of about 18 % by weight". This liquid is transferred from dis-

tillation column 50 (see page 353, lines 21-24 of the specification), to which the liquid collected in reservoir 47 is fed (see page 352, line 24 to page 353, line 5 of the specification). As explained above in connection with amendment to page 352, line 18, the liquid collected in reservoir 47 contains Hf but does not contain Pb and, hence, the liquid collected in reservoir 58 contains Hf but does not contain Pb. Thus, the above description "the liquid collected in reservoir 58 had a Pb content of about 18 % by weight" should be amended to "the liquid collected in reservoir 58 had an Hf content of about 18 % by weight".

The amendment to page 368, line 19 (i.e., an amendment in which "reservoir 29" is changed to --reservoir 126--) has been made to correct an erroneously described reference numeral of a reservoir. Support for this amendment is as follows. In the paragraphs (at page 367, line 14 to page 369, line 5 of the specification) containing the portion to be corrected by the amendment, step (5) is performed using a device as shown in Fig. 6 (see page 367, lines 15-16 of the specification). As mentioned above, Fig. 6 shows that a condensate withdrawn from condenser 52 is transferred to reservoir 126, not to reservoir 29. From this, the amendment to page 368, line 19 is apparent. (Another support for the

amendment to page 368, line 19 is found at page 368, line 12-14 of the specification.)

The amendment to page 431, line 11 (i.e., an amendment in which "chaged" is changed to --charged--) is only a correction of a misspelling.

In the above-mentioned amendments, no new matter has been introduced.

It is respectfully requested that this Preliminary Amendment be entered in the above-referenced application.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Preliminary Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully Submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Date: March 27 2006

By: M.J.H.
Mark J. Henry
Registration No. 36-162

1201 New York Ave., N.W., Suite 700
Washington, DC 20005
Telephone: (202) 434-1500
Facsimile: (202) 434-1501